



STORIES of STRANGE ADVENTURE

NO 64-MARCH

APPROVED
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COMICS
CODE



AUTHORITY

FORBIDDEN WORLDS

10¢

WONDER
WHAT SORT OF
CRITTER I'VE PULLED
IN? IT'S SURE...
BIG!

It WAS THE WEIRDEST
CATCH OF ALL TIME!
HERE'S A TENSE TALE
OF SUBSURFACE
MYSTERY...
**"UNDERSEA
EMPIRE!"**



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The FUNman, Dept. P-159
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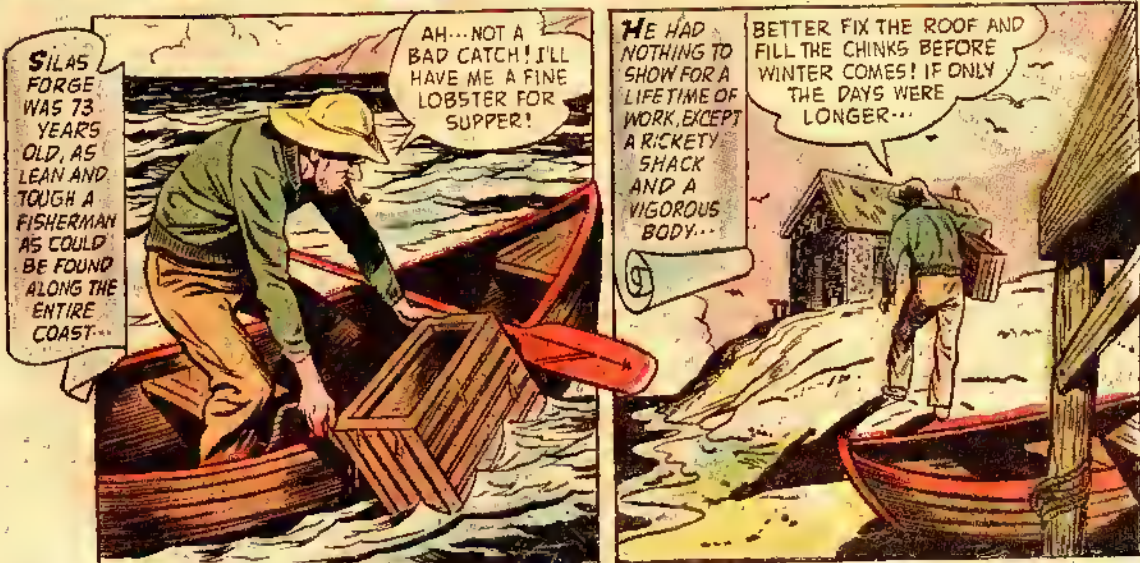
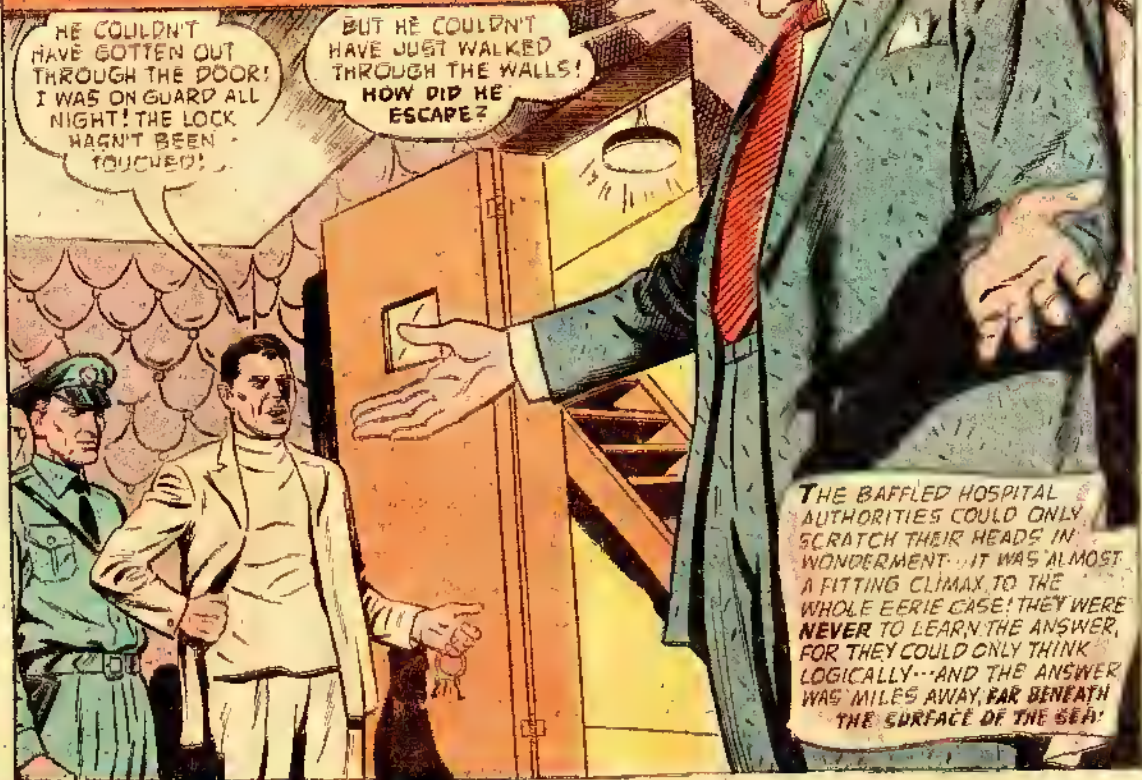
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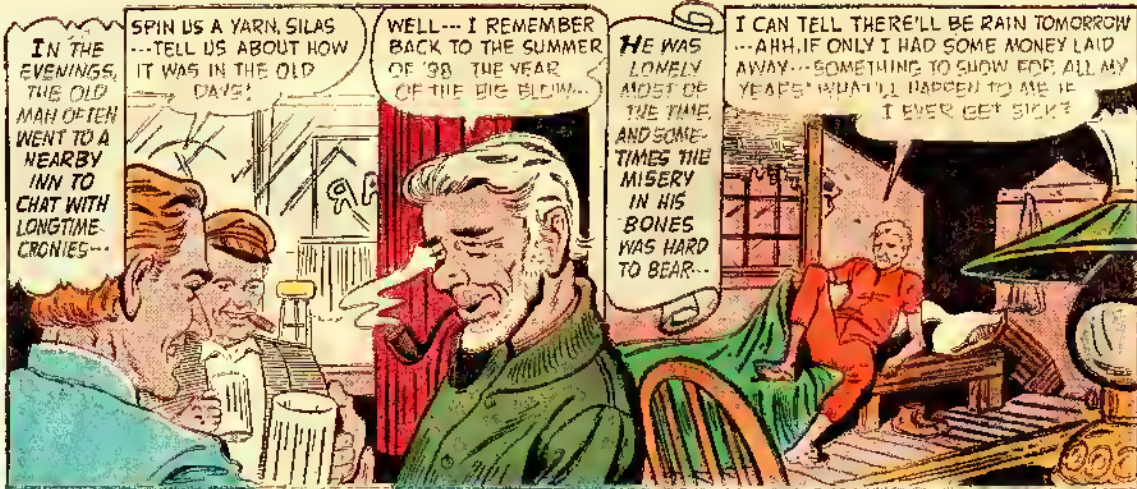
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SEND NO MONEY—We Trust You!

UNDERSEA EMPIRE!



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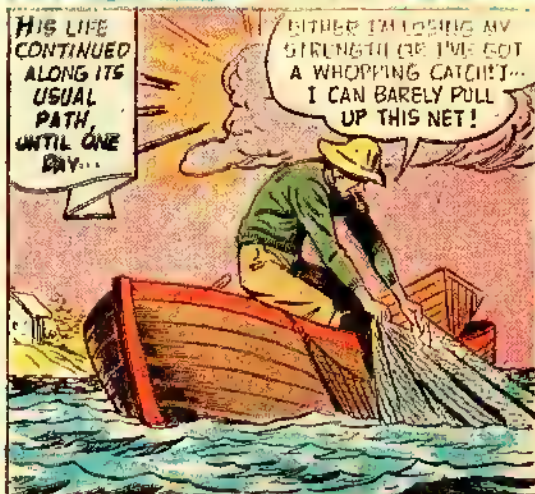
IN THE EVENINGS, THE OLD MAN OFTEN WENT TO A NEARBY INN TO CHAT WITH LONGTIME CRONIES...

SPIN US A YARN, SILAS... TELL US ABOUT HOW IT WAS IN THE OLD DAYS!

WELL... I REMEMBER BACK TO THE SUMMER OF '98... THE YEAR OF THE BIG BLOW...

HE WAS LONELY MOST OF THE TIME, AND SOMETIMES THE MISERY IN HIS BONES WAS HARD TO BEAR...

I CAN TELL THERE'LL BE RAIN TOMORROW... AHH... IF ONLY I HAD SOME MONEY LAID AWAY... SOMETHING TO SHOW FOR ALL MY YEARS! WHAT'LL HAPPEN TO ME IF I EVER GET SICK?



HIS LIFE CONTINUED ALONG ITS USUAL PATH, UNTIL ONE DAY...

EITHER I'M LOSING MY STRENGTH OR I'VE GOT A WHOPPING CATCH!... I CAN BARELY PULL UP THIS NET!



HIS EYES WERE NOT GOOD... HE WAS NOT AWARE OF WHAT WAS IN HIS NET TILL...

PLEASE, DON'T HURT ME! LET ME GO! THROW ME BACK!

GOOD GRAY... I'M HEARING THINGS!

STARTLED AND CONFUSED, SILAS IMMEDIATELY BEGAN ROWING TOWARD SHORE...

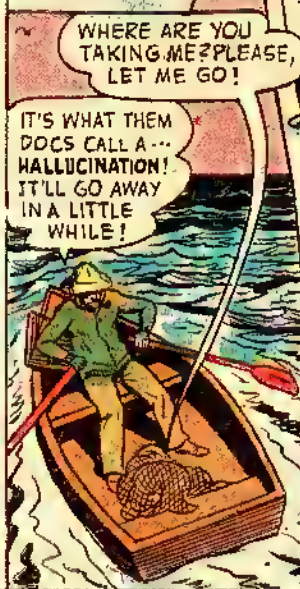
HE CARRIED THE HEAVY NET TO HIS SHACK, OPENED IT ON THE TABLE...

YOU... YOU'RE NOT GOING TO HARM ME, ARE YOU? I'M NO USE TO YOU... PLEASE, I'M BEGGING YOU...

GOLDURN IT-- NOW I'M SEEING THINGS! BETTER GET MY SPECS--

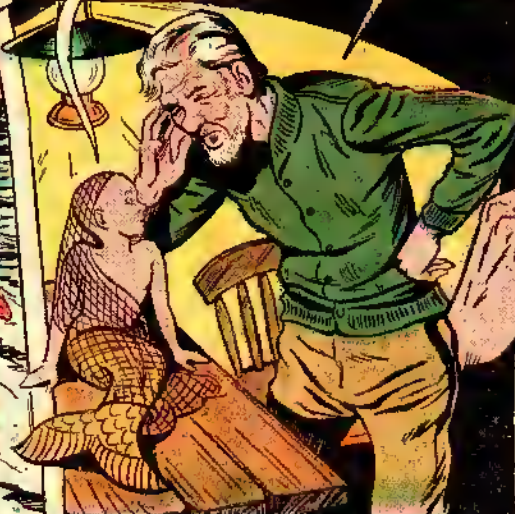
GREAT NEPTUNE... THE THING IS REAL!

WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU? WHY ARE YOU STARING AT ME LIKE THAT? WH-WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?



WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME? PLEASE, LET ME GO!

IT'S WHAT THEM DOCS CALL A... HALLUCINATION! IT'LL GO AWAY IN A LITTLE WHILE!





EUREKA! I'M RICH!
I CAN SELL IT FOR
A MILLION DOLLARS
TO SOME MUSEUM
...OR A CIRCUS!

NO! OLD MAN,
PLEASE TURN
ME LOOSE! MY
MOTHER AND
FATHER MUST
BE WORRIED
ABOUT ME!
HAVE YOU NO
PITY?

ARE YOU LOONEY, BOY? YOU'RE
WORTH MORE THAN ALL THE TEA
IN CHINA! I'M GONNA TAKE GOOD
CARE OF YOU! YOU HUNGRY? CAN
I GET YOU SOMETHING?

ALL RIGHT...SINCE
YOU WON'T LISTEN TO
REASON...YOU ASKED
FOR IT!

SUDDENLY THE BOY'S EYES BEW
IMMENSELY BRIGHT! LIGHT SEEMED
TO BLAZE FROM THEM...

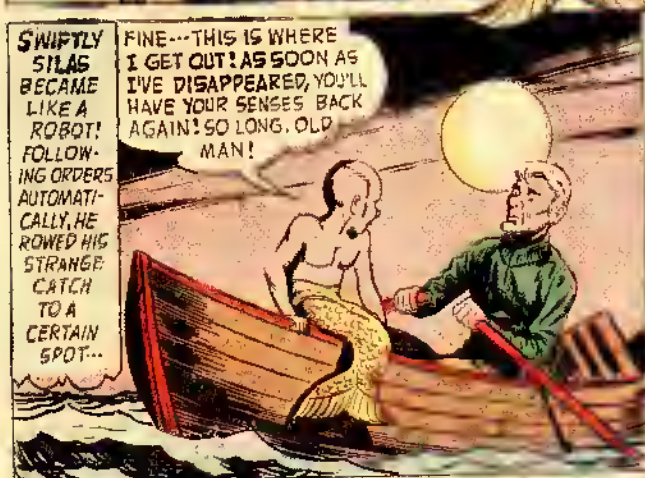
THAT'S RIGHT...GAZE AT ME!
YOU'RE GOING TO DO WHAT I
TELL YOU...YOU HAVE NO
WILL OF YOUR OWN!

WHAT IN---?
I---I---



SWIFTLY
SILAS
BECAME
LIKE A
ROBOT!
FOLLOW-
ING ORDERS
AUTOMATI-
CALLY, HE
ROWED HIS
STRANGE
CATCH
TO A
CERTAIN
SPOT...

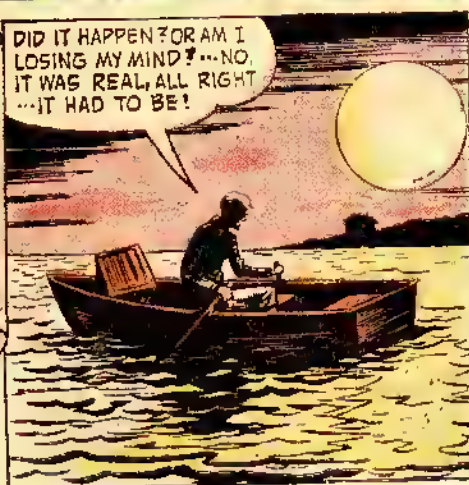
FINE...THIS IS WHERE
I GET OUT! AS SOON AS
I'VE DISAPPEARED, YOU'LL
HAVE YOUR SENSES BACK
AGAIN! SO LONG, OLD
MAN!



I--- I SEE WHAT'S
HAPPENING...BUT
IT'S LIKE I'M IN
A TRANCE!

SECONDS
LATER
THE
SURFACE
OF THE
SEA WAS
CALM, AND
SILAS
SNAPPED
BACK
TO HIS
SENSES...

DID IT HAPPEN? OR AM I
LOSING MY MIND?...NO,
IT WAS REAL, ALL RIGHT
...IT HAD TO BE!



THAT
NIGHT, SILAS
TOLD HIS
FRIENDS
AT THE
INN WHAT
HAD
HAPPENED...

OH, COME OFF IT, SILAS! YOU
EXPECT US TO BELIEVE A
YARN LIKE THAT?

MY WORD OF
HONOR! EVERY
WORD IS TRUE!





MUST'VE HAD TOO MUCH SUN TODAY! HE'S LOSING HIS GRIP!

THAT'S WHAT I WOULD'VE SAID IF ANYBODY TOLD ME SUCH A TALE! M-MAYBE MY BRAIN IS GOING SOFT--



HE WENT TO BED WONDERING, AND SLEPT FITFULLY! IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT, STRANGE SOUNDS AWAKENED HIM...

WHAT'S THAT? WHO'S THERE?

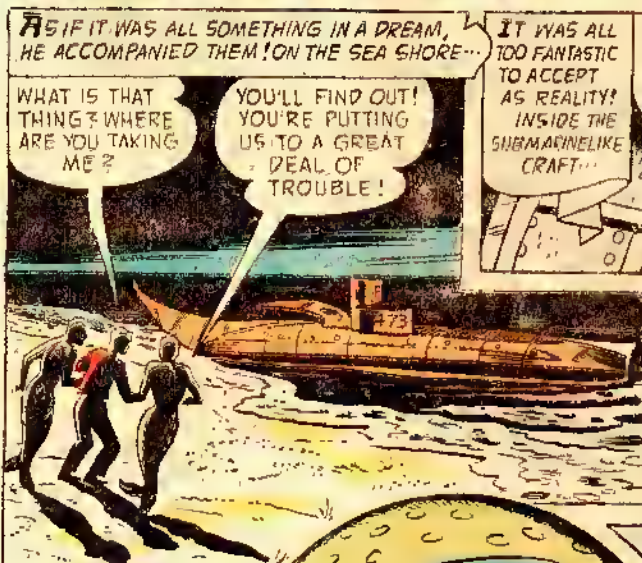
DON'T BE ALARMED, OLD MAN! BUT YOU'RE COMING WITH US!



IN THE GLOOM HIS EYES FINALLY DETECTED THE VISITORS...

WHAT...?!

DON'T SHOUT... THESE WEAPONS ARE QUITE EFFECTIVE! PUT ON YOUR CLOTHES... AND DON'T TRY TO ESCAPE!



AS IF IT WAS ALL SOMETHING IN A DREAM, HE ACCOMPANIED THEM! ON THE SEA SHORE...

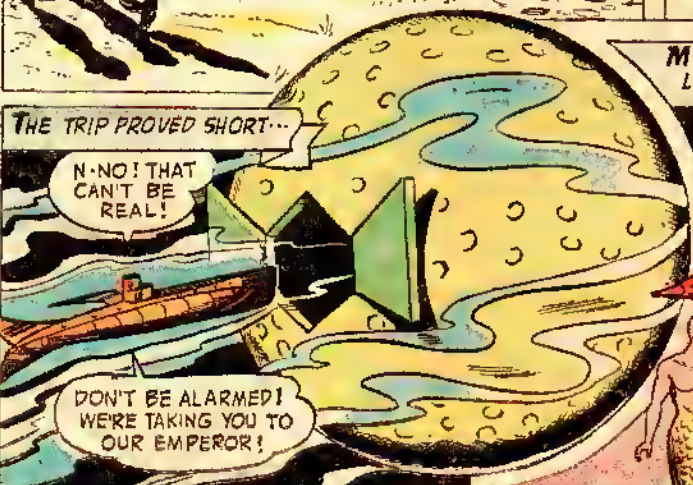
WHAT IS THAT THING? WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME?

YOU'LL FIND OUT! YOU'RE PUTTING US TO A GREAT DEAL OF TROUBLE!

IT WAS ALL TOO FANTASTIC TO ACCEPT AS REALITY! INSIDE THE SUBMARINELIKE CRAFT...

WHAT HAPPENS NOW? WHAT DO YOU WANT ME FOR?

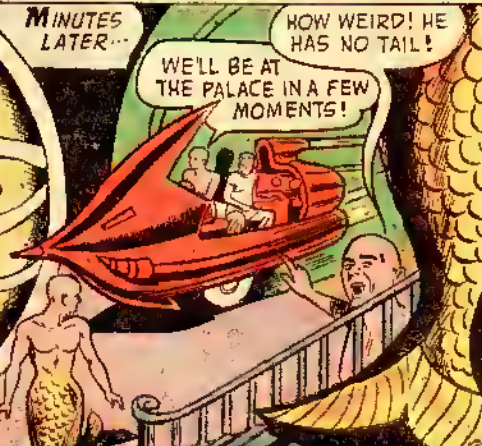
YOU KNOW OF OUR EXISTENCE... AND THEREFOR YOU ARE A THREAT! BE SILENT, FOR SOON YOU SHALL KNOW ALL!



THE TRIP PROVED SHORT...

N-NO! THAT CAN'T BE REAL!

DON'T BE ALARMED! WE'RE TAKING YOU TO OUR EMPEROR!



MINUTES LATER...

WE'LL BE AT THE PALACE IN A FEW MOMENTS!

HOW WEIRD! HE HAS NO TAIL!

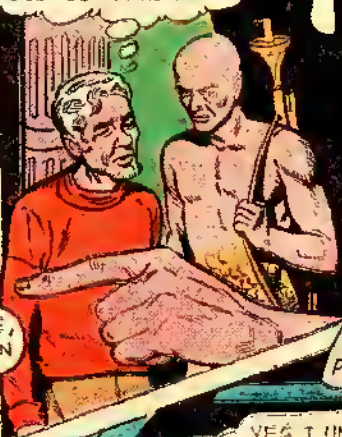
(CONTINUED ON PAGE AFTER NEXT)



HERE HE IS, YOUR HIGHNESS!

YOU REALIZE THAT YOU'VE CAUSED PANIC IN OUR REALM, OLD MAN? IF THE UPPER WORLD LEARNS OF OUR EXISTENCE, OUR CIVILIZATION WILL BE IN GREAT DANGER!

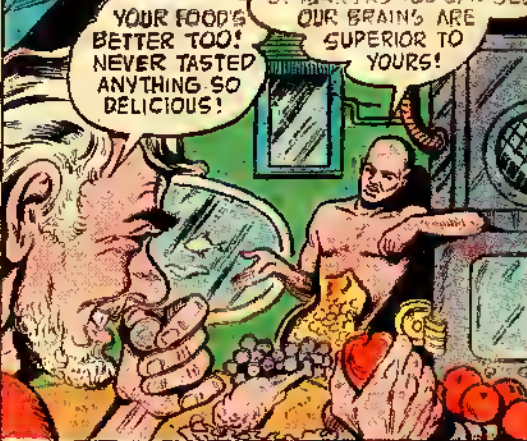
THIS IS ALL A DREAM! I'LL SOON WAKE UP!



FOR DAYS HE WAS KEPT A PRISONER IN THE PALACE...

YES, I UNDERSTAND WHY IT IS HARD FOR YOU TO BELIEVE! WE BEINGS OF THE SEA DEVELOPED INTELLIGENCE INDEPENDENT OF MAN! AS YOU CAN SEE, OUR BRAINS ARE SUPERIOR TO YOURS!

YOUR FOOD'S BETTER TOO! NEVER TASTED ANYTHING SO DELICIOUS!



I MUST CONSIDER THIS MATTER AT LENGTH! IT WOULD BE EASY ENOUGH TO DISPOSE OF YOU... BUT WE CONSIDER ALL LIFE PRECIOUS! TAKE HIM AWAY!

JUST HOW DID I HAPPEN TO CATCH THAT BOY?

THE BOONISH CHILD

DECIDED TO EXPLORE SOME OF THE SEA ON HIS OWN! HIS TEACHER HAD TAKEN HIS CLASS ON A SHORT TRIP OUTSIDE OUR WALLS!



AT LONG LAST HE WAS SUMMONED BEFORE THE EMPEROR AGAIN...

I HAVE COME TO A DECISION... YOU ARE TO BE RETURNED UNHARMED TO YOUR HOME! MY ADVISORS INFORM ME THAT NO ONE WILL BELIEVE YOU... SO WE'RE SAFE!

THANK YOU, EMPEROR! THANK YOU!



THAT NIGHT HE WAS PUT ASHORE NEAR HIS SHACK! HE WATCHED THE SUBMARINE SLOWLY SINK BENEATH THE WAVES...

I... I'M NOT SURE I'M GLAD TO BE BACK! I HAD IT MIGHTY GOOD WITH THEM...

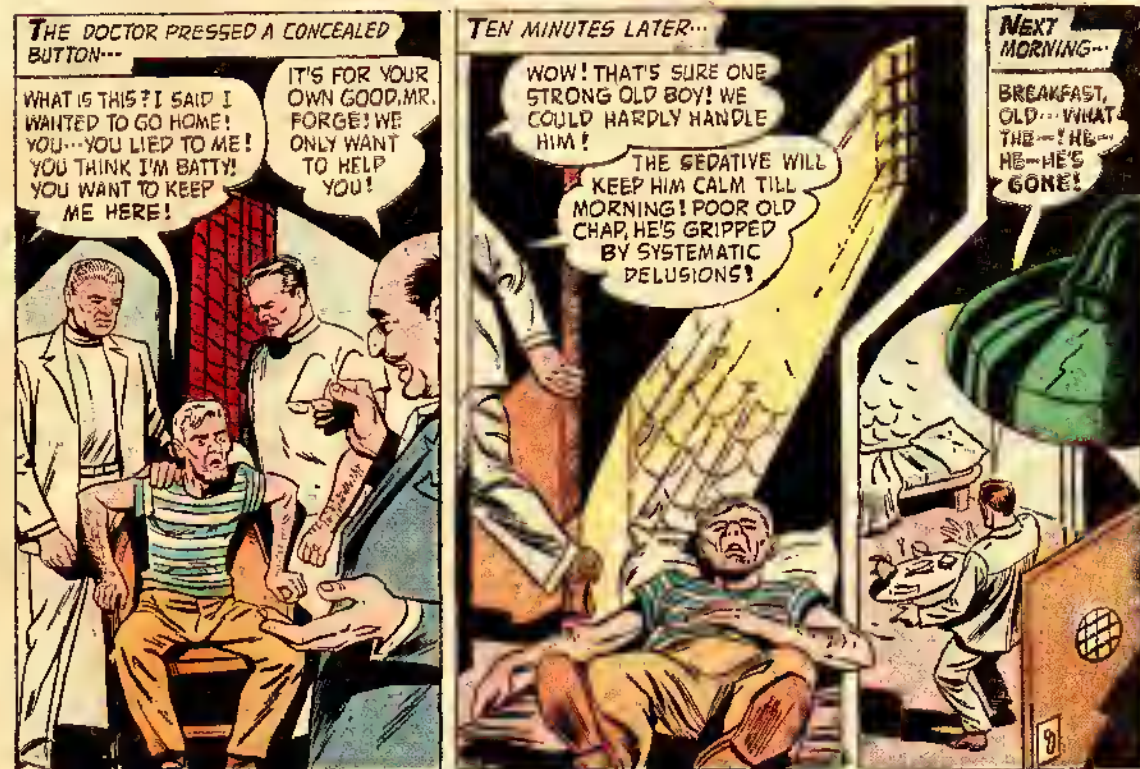
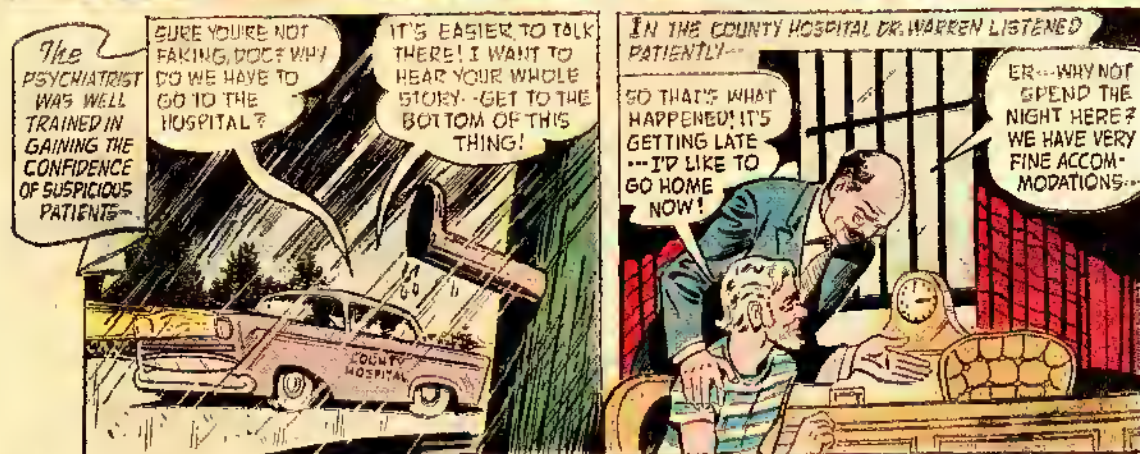
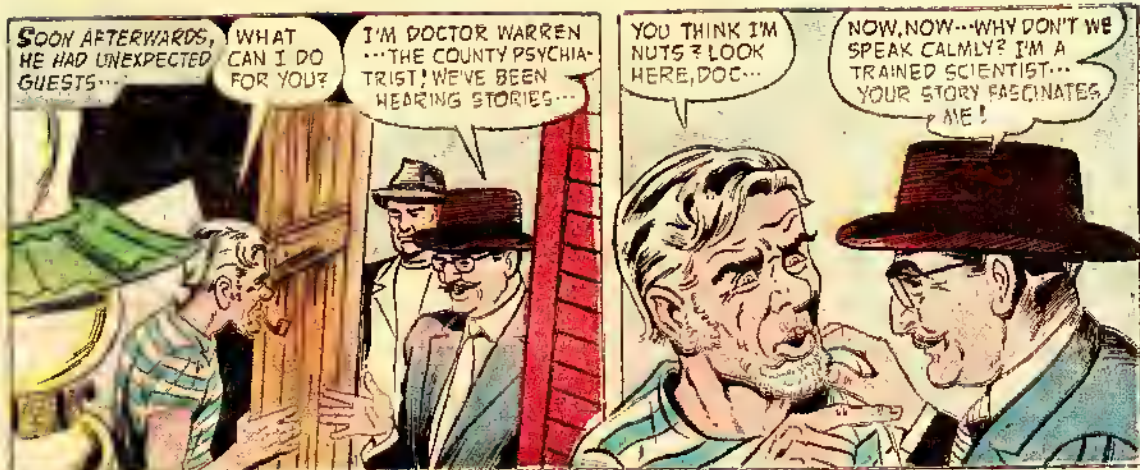


SO ONCE AGAIN HE RETURNED TO HIS TRADE! THERE WERE LONG DAYS OF SETTING NETS AND TRAPS, AND IN THE EVENINGS...

STILL HARPING ON THAT CRAZY STUFF? COME OFF IT, SILAS... BEFORE THEY PUT YOU IN THE LOONEY BIN!

I TELL YOU THEY'VE GOT A WORLD BENEATH THE SEA... BETTER THAN OURS! YOU OUGHT TO SEE IT! AMAZING!





**WITHIN MOMENTS THE SCENE WAS
UTTER CONFUSION...**

HE COULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN OUT
OF HERE! I WAS ON GUARD ALL
NIGHT!

BUT A MAN JUST
CAN'T DISAPPEAR
FROM A BARRED
ROOM!



THAT AFTERNOON...

HE'S NOT BACK AT HIS PLACE--
NOBODY'S SEEN HIM! WE
HAVE A STATEWIDE ALARM
OUT!

FUNNY...I'VE GOT
A PECULIAR FEELING
HE'S NOT GOING TO
BE FOUND! I
WONDER...



**FOR A FLEETING MOMENT,
A WILD IDEA HAD PASSED
THROUGH DR. WARREN'S
MIND...**

WHAT DO YOU
WONDER, DOC?

OH, NOTHING! IT'S
THAT STORY OF HIS
---OFFHAND, HE
SEEMED QUITE
SANE! I'D INTENDED
TO USE TRUTH
SERUM ON HIM
TODAY!



**AT THAT
MOMENT...**

YOU WERE FAST
ASLEEP WHEN WE
FOUND YOU! YOU
DIDN'T COME TO
UNTIL WE GOT YOU
SAFELY BACK HERE!

THEY MUST'VE GIVEN ME SOMETHING TO
MAKE ME SLEEP BACK IN THE HOSPITAL! BUT
HOW COME YOU CAME FOR ME? AND HOW'D
YOU FREE ME WITH-
OUT ANYBODY
FINDING OUT?



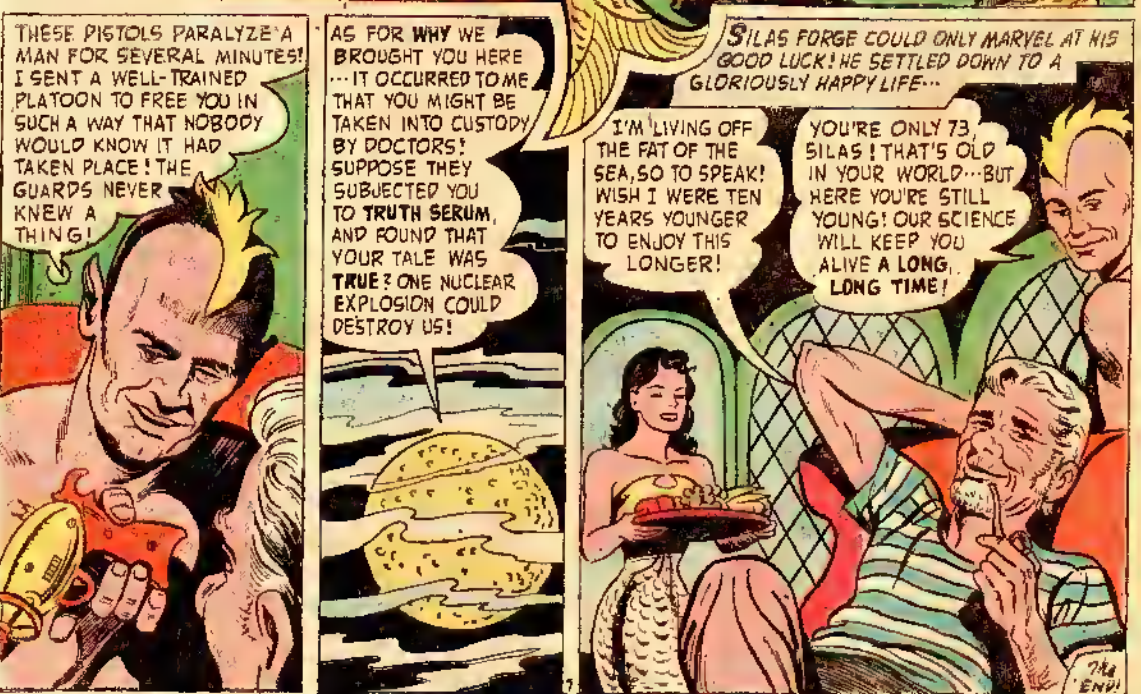
THESE PISTOLS PARALYZE A
MAN FOR SEVERAL MINUTES!
I SENT A WELL-TRAINED
PLATOON TO FREE YOU IN
SUCH A WAY THAT NOBODY
WOULD KNOW IT HAD
TAKEN PLACE! THE
GUARDS NEVER
KNEW A
THING!

AS FOR WHY WE
BROUGHT YOU HERE
---IT OCCURRED TO ME
THAT YOU MIGHT BE
TAKEN INTO CUSTODY
BY DOCTORS!
SUPPOSE THEY
SUBJECTED YOU
TO TRUTH SERUM,
AND FOUND THAT
YOUR TALE WAS
TRUE? ONE NUCLEAR
EXPLOSION COULD
DESTROY US!

**SILAS FORGE COULD ONLY MARVEL AT HIS
GOOD LUCK! HE SETTLED DOWN TO A
GLORIOUSLY HAPPY LIFE...**

I'M LIVING OFF
THE FAT OF THE
SEA, SO TO SPEAK!
WISH I WERE TEN
YEARS YOUNGER
TO ENJOY THIS
LONGER!

YOU'RE ONLY 73,
SILAS! THAT'S OLD
IN YOUR WORLD...BUT
HERE YOU'RE STILL
YOUNG! OUR SCIENCE
WILL KEEP YOU
ALIVE A LONG,
LONG TIME!



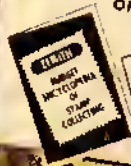
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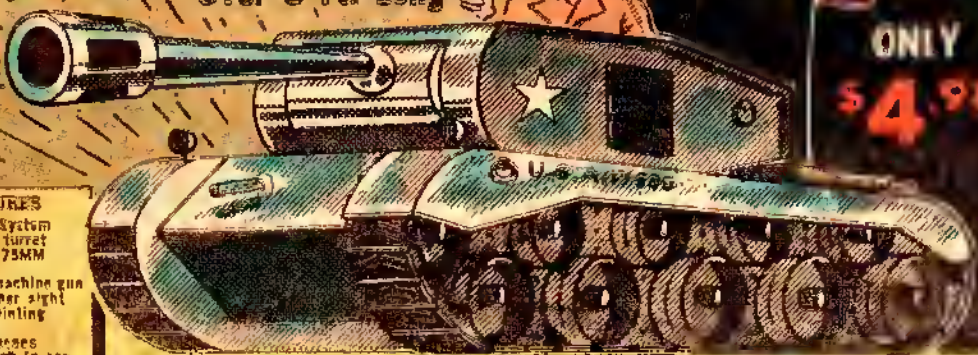
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Name

Address

PERMANENT FIXTURE

Dr. Alex Carstairs had a strange scientific specialty—time. Constantly, he dived into its nature, convinced that it was a dimension that could somehow be *controlled*. People laughed at him in Elmville, called him "Crazy Carstairs," and he determined to show them. While they jeered, he worked, and finally he achieved a measure of success, straining his enfeebled health in the process.

For he built a strange device that *could make time stand still*. It was a complicated scientific vehicle that could travel through the air, creating a zone of timelessness beneath it. Even though he hadn't tried it as yet, he couldn't resist telling his neighbors about it. How they laughed at him then, calling him a fool, a lunatic dreamer!

It had always been this way, for they had known him all his life and resented his learning. He tried to hide his hurt and grief in the last minute touches preparatory to testing the apparatus.

On the night of March 16th, it was finally complete. He seated himself within it wearily, conscious of how he had taxed his health in the arduous work. But anticipation made his pulses beat faster.

Tentatively, he touched the main control. *Whooooosh!* He was away at blinding speed, high in the air. He leveled off, looking down excitedly at the sleeping town. Better go down so he could get a clear look. He did so, noting that the clock in the church steeple read 12:10. For a half hour, he cruised over the familiar streets, then looked at the clock again. 12:10! He had done it—*made time stand still!* And in this moment of happiness, his enfeebled heart ceased to beat.

So Dr. Carstairs' life was a success, crowned as it was by high accomplishment and happiness. But what of his townspeople, who had always jeered at him, made him miserable?

When morning came, they emerged, and one of them gazed above the steeple in amazement. What was that, hovering transparently above it? Soon everyone had gathered, gaping.

It was like a misty mirage, a strange vehicle shimmering there—and leaning out of it, the hazy shape of the man they had laughed at. Forever he would smile down upon them, for Dr. Alex Carstairs was now a *time phenomenon*—and you can't blot out time!

STATEMENTS REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF AUGUST 24, 1912, AS AMENDED BY THE ACTS OF MARCH 3, 1933, AND JULY 2, 1946 (Title 39, United States Code, Section 232) SHOWING THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, AND CIRCULATION OF

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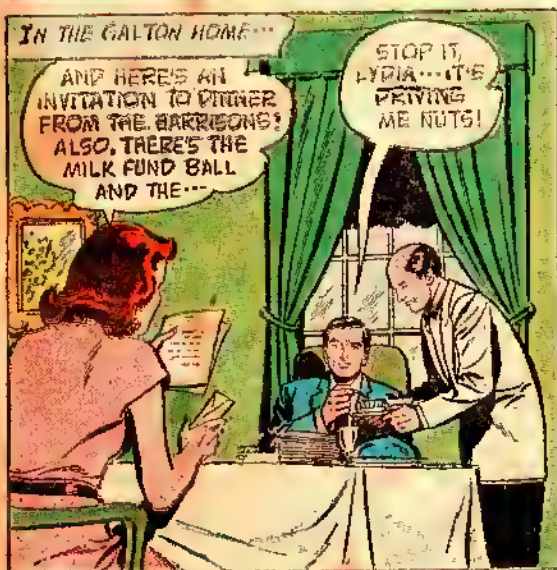
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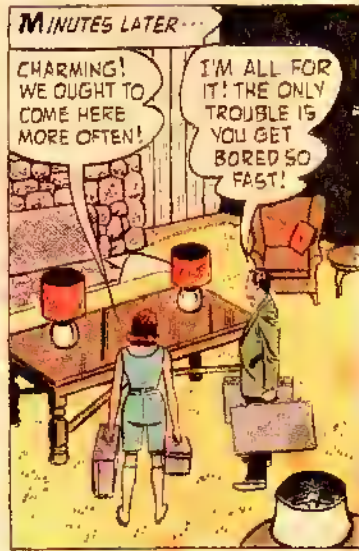
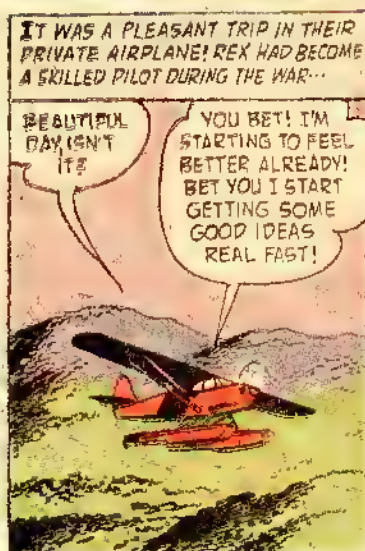
RICHARD E. HUGHES
Editor.

Sworn to and subscribed before me on this
24th day of September, 1957.

IRVING JURKOFF

Notary Public, State of New York.
(Term expires March 30, 1958)





THAT NIGHT, LONG AFTER LYDIA SLUMBERED PEACEFULLY, REX STILL TOSSED AND TURNED...

MY BRAIN IS COLD AS A REFRIGERATOR... MAYBE I'M THROUGH AS A WRITER! OH-OH, SOUNDS LIKE THAT MOUNTAIN LION IS VERY CLOSE BY... I BETTER INVESTIGATE!

R-ROAR!



GRABBING A RIFLE, HE QUICKLY FOUND HIS QUARRY UNDER THE BRIGHT MOONLIGHT...

GARGH!

BETTER GET RID OF IT BEFORE IT DOES ANY DAMAGE! THIS IS LIKE SHOOTING FISH IN A BARREL!



WITH THE LION CLEARLY IN HIS SIGHTS...

WHAT IN THE...? IT... DIDN'T MOVE!



NOT EVEN THE SOUND OF THE RIFLE SEEMED TO HAVE HAD ANY EFFECT ON THE BIG CAT! AS REX STOOD THERE STUNNED...

IT'S LOPING OFF TOWARD THE WOODS! GREAT SCOTT, CAN I BE DREAMING ALL THIS?



HURRYING BACK TO THE CABIN, HE IMMEDIATELY AWOKE LYDIA...

...AND IT DIDN'T EVEN BUDGE! YOU KNOW THAT I'M A DEAD SHOT!

YOU'RE IMAGINING THINGS, DARLING! IF THERE'D BEEN A SHOT, I'D HAVE AWAKENED AT ONCE... REMEMBER WHAT A LIGHT SLEEPER I AM?



IN THE FOLLOWING DAYS, REX SETTLED DOWN TO WORK... TO NO AVAIL! IDEAS REFUSED TO COME...

I JUST CAN'T SEEM TO CONCENTRATE! DARN THAT LION BUSINESS... I JUST CAN'T GET IT OUT OF MY MIND!



WITHOUT ANY CALENDAR, THEY WERE ONLY ROUGHLY AWARE OF THE EXACT PASSAGE OF THE DAYS! SEVERAL NIGHTS LATER...

DARN IT! I JUST CAN'T GET IT TO WORK! I'D LOVE TO HEAR SOME NEWS!

TRY ANOTHER CHANNEL! YOU MIGHT GET BETTER RECEPTION!



SUDDENLY, SOUND AND PICTURE CAME IN CLEARLY...

AND NOW, ROUNDING OUT THE NEWS OF THE WORLD, WE BRING YOU FILMS OF TODAY'S KENTUCKY DERBY!

GOOD HEAVENS, WHY IS HE DRESSED IN THAT SILLY HOOD?

THEY'RE NECK AND NECK! THE WINNER... IRON LIEGE!

TERRIFIC RACE! SURE WISH I'D HAD SOME DOUGH ON IRON LIEGE'S NOSE! FUNNY, I DIDN'T THINK THE DERBY WAS RUN SO EARLY IN MAY!

NEXT MOMENT, THE SCREEN WENT DARK...

REX, I--- I'VE GOT SUCH AN EERIE FEELING! THAT NEWS COMMENTATOR IN THE DARK HOOD... WHY?

HOW SHOULD I KNOW? MIGHT HAVE BEEN A GAG! WHAT I CAN'T UNDERSTAND IS WHY THE SET WORKS SO WELL FOR A WHILE AND THEN CONKS OUT!

ALL THE NEXT DAY THE TV SET WAS A HODGEPODGE OF WAVY LINES, BUT LATE AT NIGHT...

IT'S WORKING AGAIN... ON THAT SAME NEWS PROGRAM! AND THE ANNOUNCER STILL HAS THAT SINISTER HOOD!

WE BRING YOU THE NEWS OF THE DAY IN REVIEW! FIRST, A BULLETIN FROM WASHINGTON...

THE MOMENT THE PROGRAM WAS OVER...

BLANK AGAIN! I JUST DON'T GET IT! ALL THIS SCARES ME!

FORGET IT! RECEPTION IS PECULIAR IN THESE MOUNTAINS! THAT SINISTER HOOD Baffles ME, THOUGH...

NEXT DAY...

I'M GOING FOR A TRAMP IN THE WOODS... MAYBE I CAN COME UP WITH SOME IDEAS!

GOOD! I'LL JUST SUN MYSELF HERE FOR A WHILE! MAYBE I'LL SWIM IN THE LAKE LATER!

HE WAS DISTRACTED AS HE WALKED THROUGH THE FORESTS! IT TOOK SOME TIME FOR HIM TO REALIZE THAT SOMETHING EXTRAORDINARY WAS HAPPENING...

THAT BIRD IS LOOKING RIGHT AT ME... AND YET ISN'T FLYING AWAY! I DON'T GET IT... FOREST BIRDS ARE TERRIFIED OF HUMANS!

FURTHER ON HE CAME ACROSS A SMALL HERD OF DEER! HE APPROACHED QUITE CLOSE--



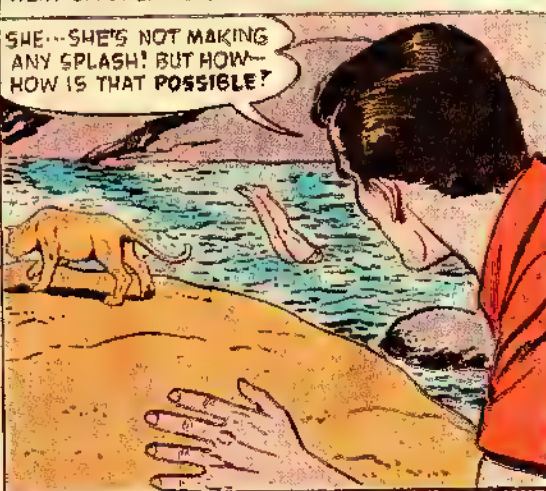
VERY EXCITED, HE RUSHED BACK TOWARD THE HOUSE! BUT ON THE WAY--



AGAIN THE FIERCE BEAST WAS CENTERED IN HIS SIGHTS! AGAIN HE SQUEEZED OFF A PERFECT SHOT--



LYDIA HAD DIVED AT THE SAME INSTANT THE RIFLE WENT OFF! REX'S EYES FLASHED TOWARD HER FORM--



THE BEAST HAD LOPED OFF TOWARD THE WOODS AND DISAPPEARED! REX RACED TO WHERE LYDIA WAS EMERGING FROM THE LAKE--

I TELL YOU THE SAME THING HAPPENED--MY GUN HAD NO EFFECT ON THE MOUNTAIN LION! THEN MY EYES PLAYED A TRICK ON ME--I DIDN'T SEE ANY SPLASH WHEN YOU DIVED!

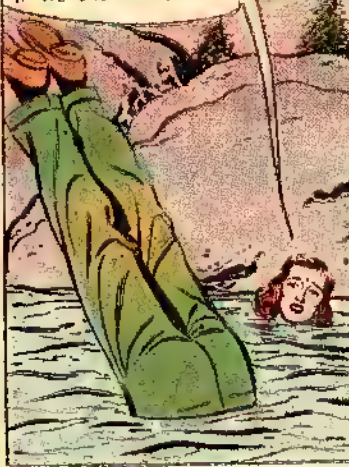


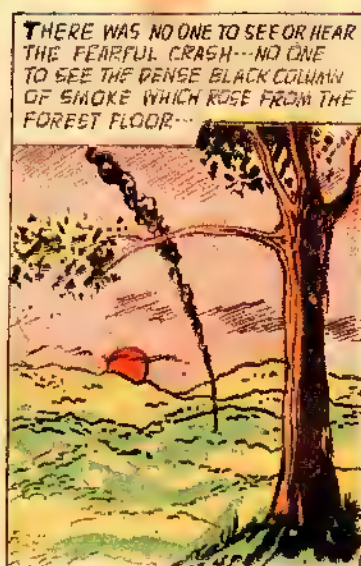
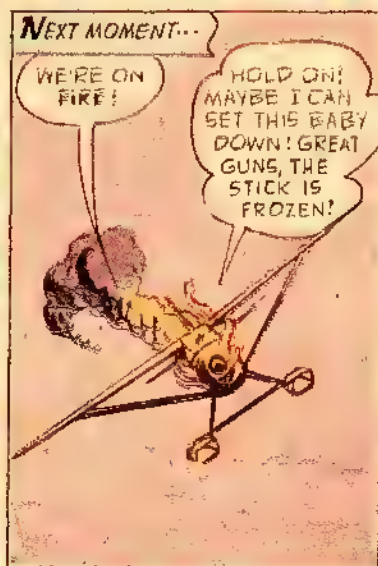
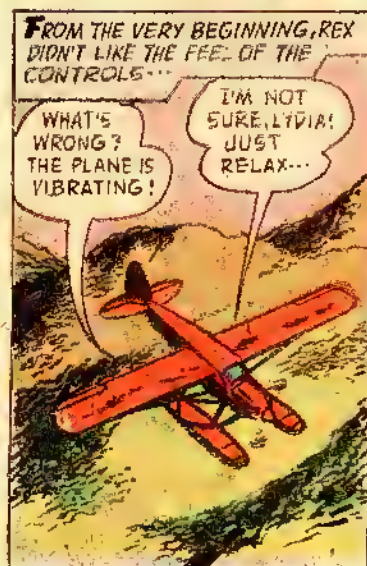
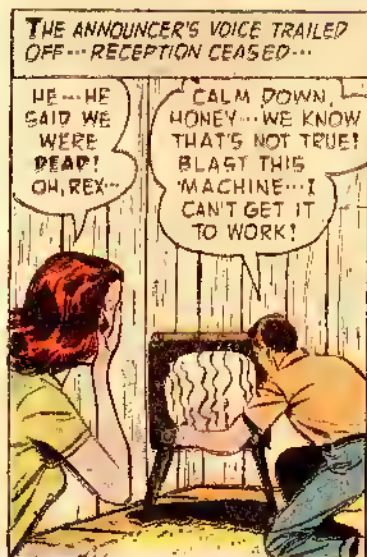
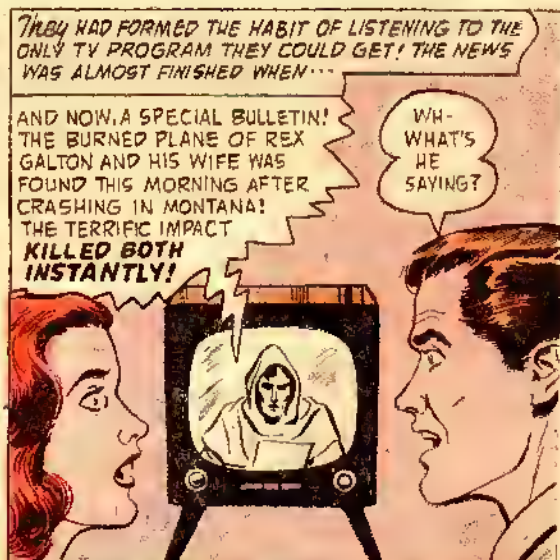
A WILD LOOK CAME INTO HIS EYES! SHE WATCHED HIM WITH GROWING FEAR--

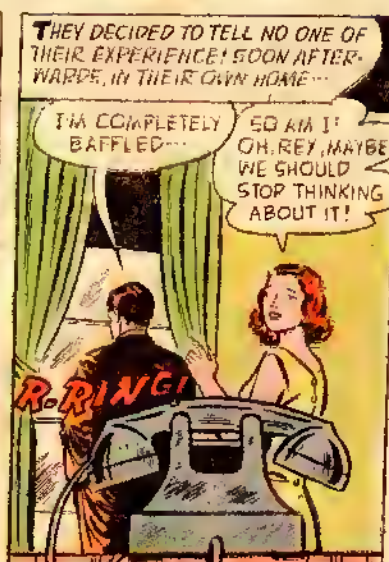
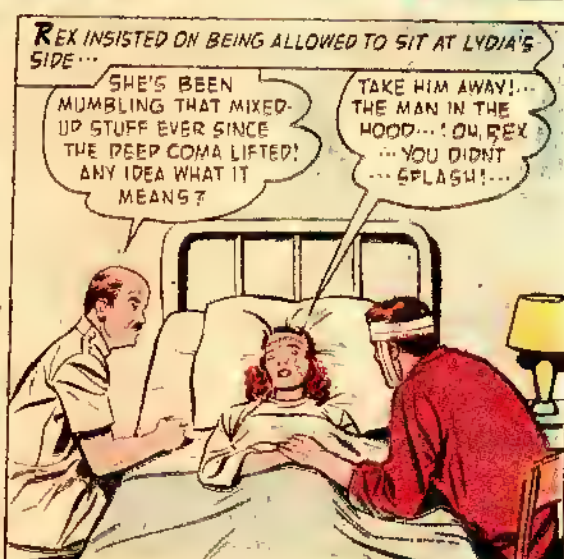
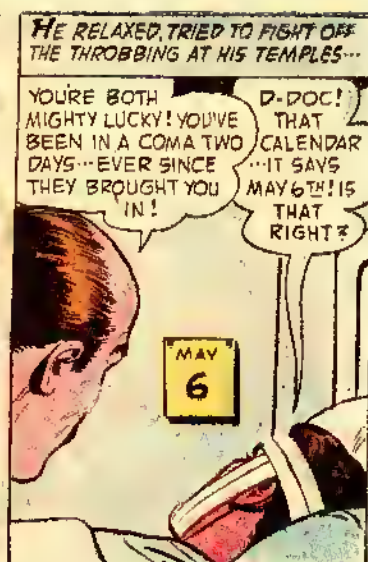
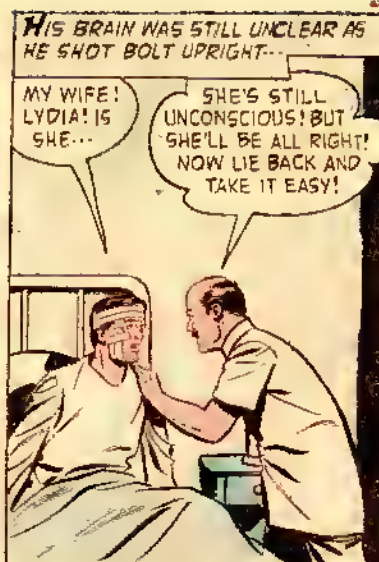
NUTS, AM I? ALL RIGHT, I'M GOING TO DIVE! WATCH AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS!



OH, NO--NO! HE--HE'S RIGHT! NOTHING IS HAPPENING TO THE SURFACE OF THE LAKE--IT'S AS IF HE DIDN'T EXIST!







BOTH THEIR HEARTS WERE POUNDING AS THE HORSES APPROACHED THE STARTING GATE---

YOU PUT \$5,000 ON IRON LIEGE'S NOSE, REX? BUT HE'S NOT EVEN THE FAVORITE!

HE'S GOING TO WIN IN A HOMESTRETCH DUEL WITH GALLANT MAN! MARK MY WORDS!

REX AND LYDIA DESCRIBED THE RACE IN ADVANCE! AND WHEN IT WAS OVER---

IT'S IRON LIEGE --- EXACTLY LIKE YOU SAID! HOW ON EARTH DID YOU KNOW?

JUST LET'S SAY THAT LYDIA AND I ARE --- CLAIRVOYANT!

WASN'T IT A SCREAM THE WAY THEY LOOKED AT US! AS IF WE WERE MEDIUMS OR SOMETHING!

THERE'S STILL ONE PIECE OF UNFINISHED BUSINESS, SWEETIE! THE CABIN-- WE'VE GOT TO GO THERE AGAIN---

CURIOSITY TRIUMPHED OVER FEAR! SO, HIRING A PLANE---

IS THAT THE SPOT, MR. GALTON? THE CABIN LOOKS BURNED TO A CRISP!

LAND ON THE LAKE! WE'VE GOT TO HAVE A CLOSER LOOK!

THE CABIN WAS COMPLETELY GUTTED, THE CHARRED REMAINS QUITE COLD---

THE PLACE OBVIOUSLY BURNED DOWN WEEKS AGO! SURE IS A REMOTE SPOT!

WEEKS AGO --- THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT THAT! IT'S SO STRANGE---

THEY POKED AROUND IN THE RUINS FOR AWHILE, AND THEN---

HEY, MR. GALTON --- I THOUGHT YOU SAID YOU DIDN'T EVEN HAVE A TELEPHONE IN THIS PLACE! HOW COME THIS TV SET?

SO IT REALLY WAS THERE--- AFTER ALL!

SOON AFTER THEY RETURNED TO THE CITY---

LET'S AGREE TO ONE THING, REX--- LET'S FORGET THE WHOLE THING --- NOT EVEN TALK ABOUT IT!

NOTHING DOING--- I'VE CHANGED MY MIND! I'M A WRITER, AND JUST NOW HARD UP FOR IDEAS! I'M GOING TO USE THE GREATEST EXPERIENCE I'VE EVER HAD IN A SUPERNATURAL NOVEL--- AND ONLY WE WILL KNOW THAT EVERY WORD IS TRUE!

The END!

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"Good Luck"
Dime to start
you off right.

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From **YOUR EDITOR-** to **YOU!**

In our last issue, we devoted two complete pages to you wonderful readers and your opinions regarding "Forbidden Worlds." We said it was the beginning of a new policy, yet here we are, going back to a single page in the very next issue. Relax, fans—we're not really going back on ourselves. We just want to give you a chance to write in and tell us whether you liked the idea of expanding the letter space. Send your reply to The Editor, "Forbidden Worlds," 347 Fifth Avenue, New York 16, N. Y. For the present—let's hear what a few of you are saying on general subjects!

"Dear Editor:-

I've never written in to a magazine before, but I felt I had to tell you how much I liked 'The Old Bunch,' in your November issue. It was a truly great story, but how come the drawing was so awful?

—Evelyn Swoboda, Lenox, Mass."

It was a fine story—and it was pretty badly drawn! Sometimes we slip, and this was one of the times. Guess the artist wasn't feeling up to scratch. We'll try not to let this happen again. Hey, wait—that yarn ran in "Adventures Into The Unknown," not "Forbidden Worlds!"

"Dear Editor:-

'The Enchanted Tree' in your December issue—'The Old And The New' in November—'Born To Rule' in October—'Dr. Marlin's Menagerie' in September. They get my vote as to the stories which make 'Forbidden Worlds' the best comic on the stands!

—A. Lander, Gulfport, Miss."

You've got sound literary taste. Want to know our vote for the worst in these same issues, same order? "Attu The Terrible"—"A Matter of Blood"—"The Prodigy"—"The Greater Evil." There's always a worst as well as a best, you know—but we keep trying!

"Dear Editor:-

I know every comics book published every

month. Want to know what I've noticed? 'Forbidden Worlds' has the best covers of any!

—Ellie Osborne, Santa Barbara, Calif."

Nice compliment, Ellie. But you could have made it better if you'd said we had the best stories, too! We like to think that's true. . . .

"Dear Editor:-

Why can't you use better paper? If you did, 'Forbidden Worlds' would be head and shoulders above any other magazine!

—Dave Jarrett, Lexington, Ky."

If we used better paper we'd have to raise the price. This way, you're getting the best value on the stands!

"Dear Editor:-

For a change, this won't be a letter from a booster. If I had my way, magazines like yours would be banned. There's no reason why your readers can't stick to the classics, you know. Not that you'll ever print this, but I wanted to get it off my chest.

—Robert Ettinger, Dunkirk, N.Y."

Okay, here's the letter you didn't think we'd print. Why not, when we've got things we want to get off our chests? We want our readers to read the classics—in addition to "Forbidden Worlds"! They include fine stories, as well as many that are dull or too bloody for our tastes. As for what we have to offer, our standards call for exciting and imaginative entertainment—and there's nothing wrong with that!

"Dear Editor:-

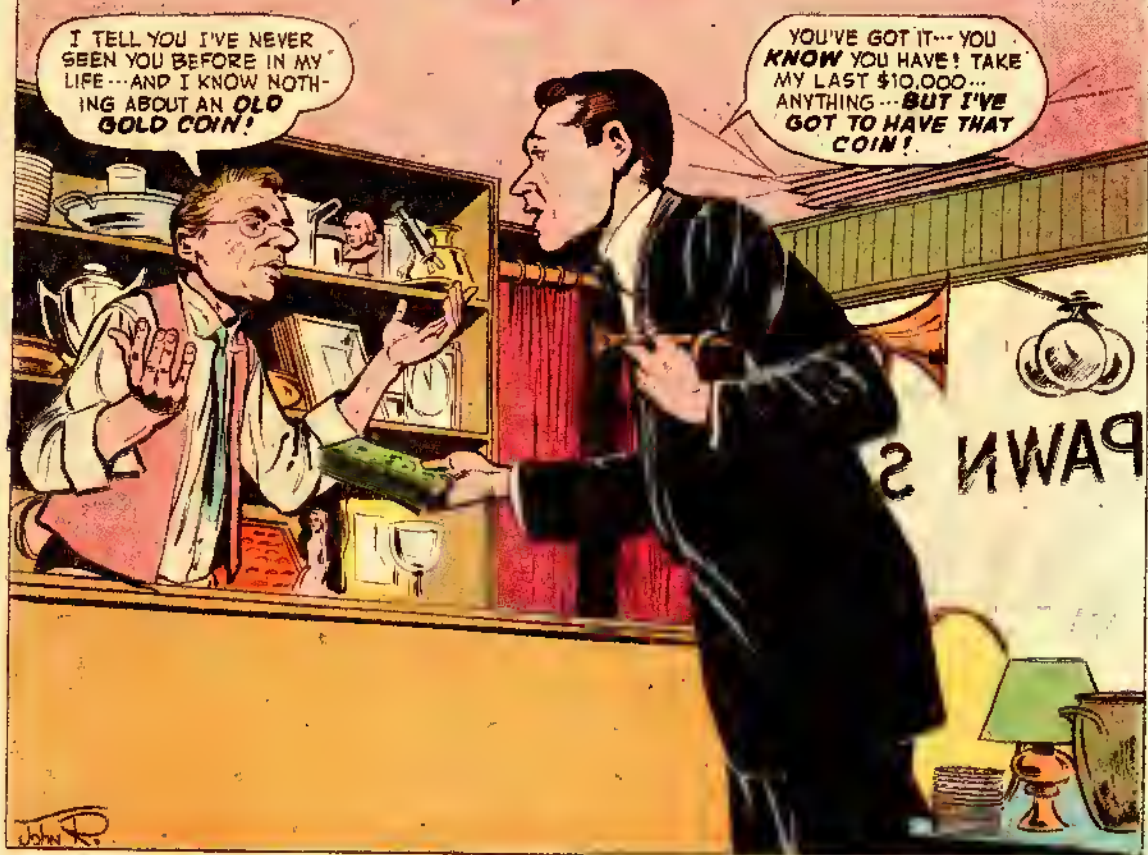
My family first learned about 'Forbidden Worlds' when my son brought it home over a year ago. Ever since then, we've all of us been reading it regularly—the two kids, my husband and myself! Your stories are wonderful, as is your illustration!

—Mrs. Anne Mossbacher, Trenton, N.J."

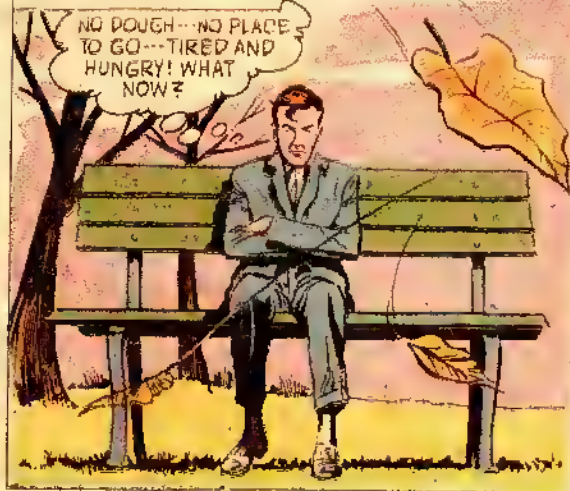
We're always in there trying, Mrs. Mossbacher. "Forbidden Worlds" takes its readers into the realms of adventure—right into the heart of the Unknown itself! We've got some great fare coming up shortly—just keep on reading and you'll see for yourself!

FOR TERRY MARLOWE, THE DREAM OF EVERY MUSICIAN HAD COME TRUE! BUT INSTEAD OF THE POT OF GOLD AT THE END OF THE RAINBOW, THERE WAS ONLY ILLNESS, MISERY AND DESPAIR! WHAT MYSTERIOUS AGENCY HAD STARTED THE FANTASTIC CHAIN OF EVENTS, WHICH COULD ONLY END WITH...

TAPS for a TRUMPETEER!



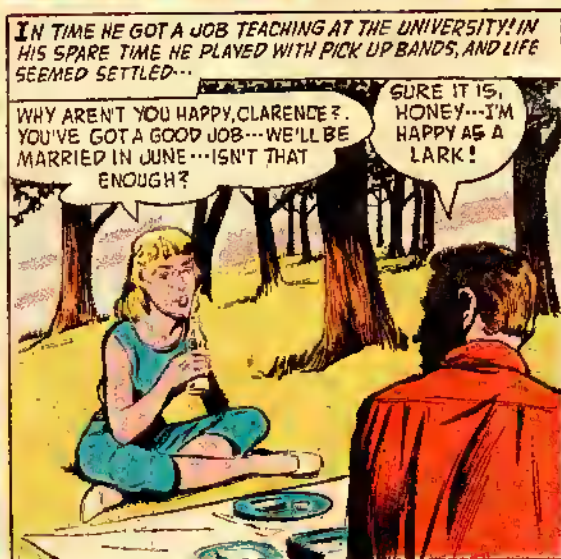
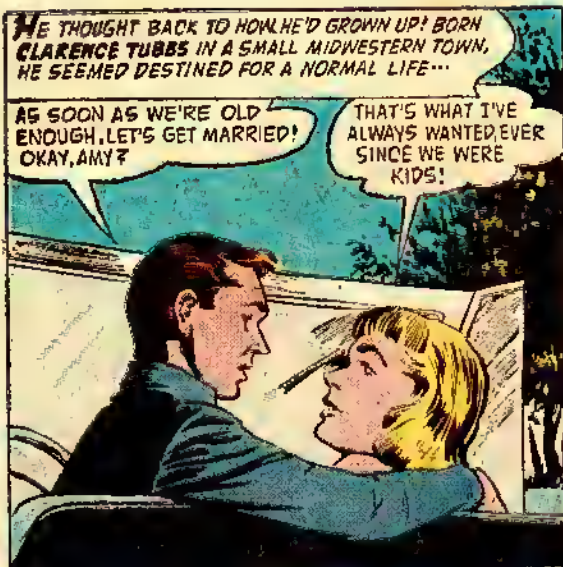
THE PREVIOUS YEARS HAD BEEN ONE LONG SLIDE INTO A BOTTOMLESS PIT...



A PASSERBY MIGHT HAVE BEEN SURPRISED AT THE GOLD COIN HE TURNED OVER IN HIS HANDS...

THE ONE THING I'VE NEVER PAWNED... AND I NEVER WILL! DAD GAVE ME THIS... A GOOD LUCK CHARM... WHAT A LAUGH! THINGS COULD'VE BEEN DIFFERENT, THOUGH... I DIDN'T HAVE TO BE A FAILURE...





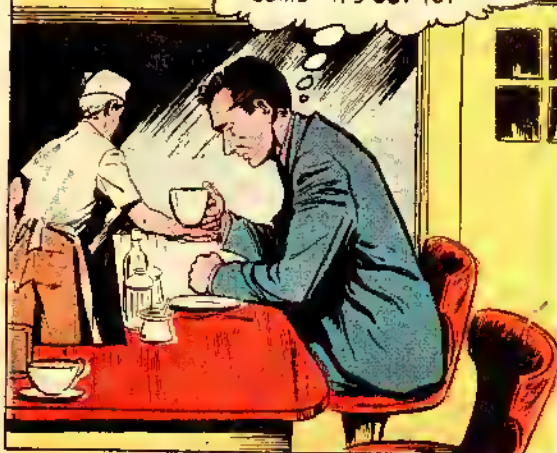
THINGS TURNED OUT DISASTROUSLY...

THE WAITERS OUTNUMBER
THE CUSTOMERS! GUESS THEY
JUST DON'T LIKE OUR
MUSIC!



THE BAND FOLDED SHORTLY, AND HE WENT FROM ONE JOB
TO ANOTHER...

I CAN'T GO HOME AND ADMIT
DEFEAT... NOT YET! MY BREAK'LL
COME... IT'S GOT TO!



HE'D CHANGED HIS NAME TO TERRY
MARLOWE AS MORE THEATRICAL...
BUT IT DIDN'T CHANGE HIS LUCK!
HE BEGAN EATING PODDER FOOD,
SLEEPING IN GRIMY HOTELS, AND IN
FIVE YEARS HAD PAWNED EVERY-
THING... EVERYTHING BUT THE GOLD
COIN...

FIVE YEARS... DOWN THE
DRAIN! I'VE FAILED BECAUSE
I LACKED THE TALENT! HOW
CAN I GO HOME AND FACE
PEOPLE... LIKE THIS?



HE WAS SNAPPED OUT OF HIS BLACK
THOUGHTS ABRUPTLY...

TERRY: I'VE BEEN LOOKING ALL OVER
FOR YOU! I GOT A JOB FOR YOU PLAY-
ING TRUMPET IN A LITTLE NIGHT CLUB!
BRING YOUR HORN TO MY PLACE BY
7 O'CLOCK... I'LL LEND YOU A SUIT!

A... A JOB?
YOU'RE A LIFE-
SAVER!



INSTANTLY CAME A SURGE OF
OPTIMISM... BUT THEN...

HERE'S A CHANCE TO MAKE SOME DOUGH
... GET SOME DECENT CLOTHES! HOLY
COW, I JUST REMEMBERED... I DON'T
OWN A TRUMPET ANY MORE! I
PAWNED THAT TOO!



HE RUSHED TO A HOCK SHOP, PLEADED FOR THE LOAN OF AN
INSTRUMENT...

ARE YOU KIBBIN'? YOU WANT
A HORN, I GOT TO HAVE
COLLATERAL!

BUT I DON'T HAVE
ANY! PLEASE, IT'S SO
IMPORTANT...



IN DESPERATION HE HANDED OVER HIS GOLD PIECE...

HERE, YOU SKINPLINT! BUT
I'LL BE BACK FOR IT!
GIMME THE HORN!

TAKE IT! AND GOOD
LUCK! YOU DON'T LOOK SO
WELL, BUDDY... BETTER
GET SOMETHING TO EAT
... FAST!



CLUTCHING THE HORN TO HIS SIDE HE RUSHED OUT OF THE STORE, FEELING WEAK AND TIRED AND DIZZY! NEVERTHELESS, A BURST OF DAYDREAMS HIT HIM...

MAYBE THIS'LL BE MY BIG NIGHT! THEY SAY YOU HAVE TO SUFFER BEFORE YOU CAN BE AN ARTIST! WELL, I'VE SUFFERED---THIS COULD BE MY BREAK!



HE STILL HADN'T EATEN BY THE TIME HE REACHED THE NIGHT CLUB...

OKAY, YOU GUYS, LET'S SEE WHAT YOU CAN DO! THAT'S A PRETTY CHEAP-LOOKING HORN YOU'VE GOT THERE, MARLOWE!

DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME!



EVERYTHING SEEMED HAZY TO TERRY IN THE SMOKY LITTLE ROOM! THE PLACE WAS CROWDED WITH CUSTOMERS WHEN HE ROSE FOR HIS FIRST SOLO...

PLEASE, MAKE THIS A GOOD ONE! IF ONLY I DON'T SOUND TOO TINNY!



AND THEN, A FANTASTIC THING HAPPENED! AS THE VERY FIRST NOTES ISSUED FROM HIS INSTRUMENT, AN ADMIRING HUSH FELL OVER THE AUDIENCE...

WOW! THAT'S GUY'S TERRIF! SWEETEST NOTES I EVER HEARD!



AND WHEN HE'D FINISHED THEY ALMOST TORE THE PLACE APART WITH APPLAUSE...

GREAT! COOL!

MAN, I DIDN'T KNOW YOU COULD BLOW LIKE THAT!

A CHEAP HORN LIKE THIS---HOW'D I DO IT?



WHEN THE AMAZING EVENING CAME TO AN END, HE WAS MOBBED BY HIS FELLOW MUSICIANS...

IT'S AN HONOR BEING IN THE SAME BAND WITH YOU, PAL!

HERE'S 100 BUCKS FOR A BONUS, MARLOWE! KEEP BLOWING LIKE THAT AND YOU'LL BE FAMOUS!

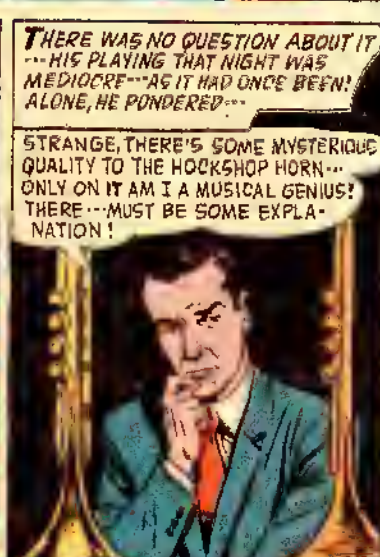
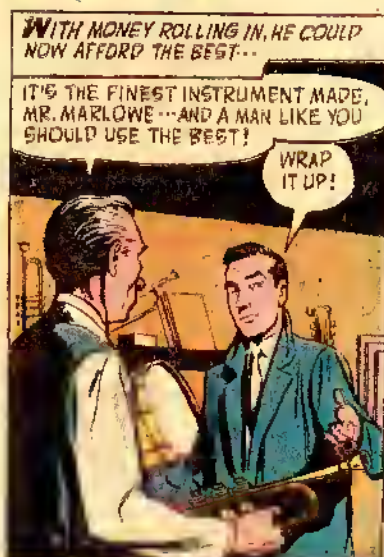


STUNNED BY THE SUDDEN TURN OF EVENTS, TERRY NEVER THELESS REMEMBERED TO GO BACK TO THE HOCKSHOP THE NEXT DAY FOR HIS GOLD COIN...

WHAT GOLD COIN? LOOK, MISTER, I NEVER SAW YOU BEFORE IN MY LIFE!

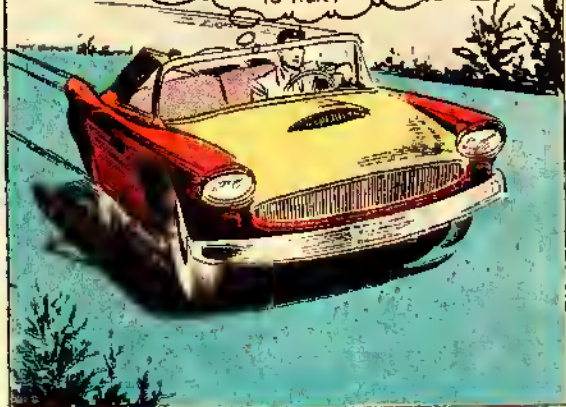
SAY, WHAT IS THIS? I LEFT THE COIN HERE AS COLLATERAL FOR THAT TRUMPET! NOW I WANT IT BACK! I'M WILLING TO PAY DOUBLE!





SUCCESSFUL BEYOND HIS DREAMS, TERRY NOW SET OUT FOR THE ONE THING NECESSARY TO COMPLETE HIS HAPPINESS...

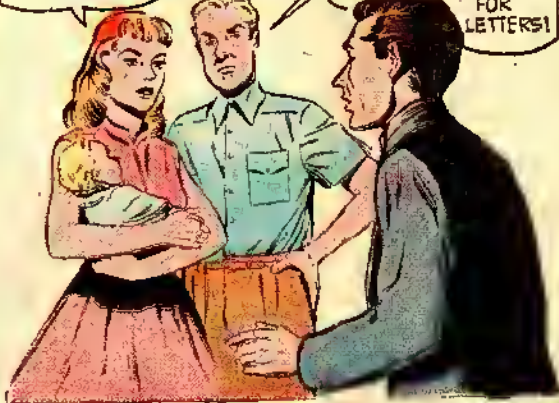
AMY: HOW PROUD SHE'LL BE OF ME! I COULDN'T WRITE TO HER WHEN I WAS DOWN AND OUT... BUT I'LL MAKE IT UP TO HER!



BUT IT WAS NOT TO BE, FOR AMY WAS NOW MRS. ARTHUR MORGAN! IT WAS A VERY STRAINED MEETING...

I'M SO GLAD YOU FINALLY MADE IT, CLARENCE! IT WAS CRUEL NOT TO WRITE YOUR OLD FRIENDS!

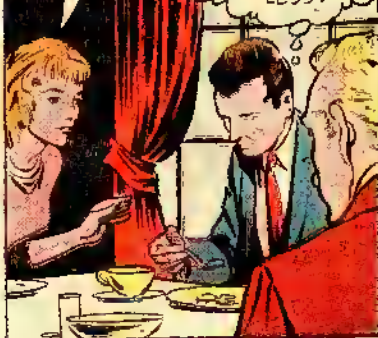
OH, DON'T BAWL HIM OUT, AMY! WHEN YOU'RE FAMOUS, YOU DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME FOR LETTERS!



HIS SPIRITS SANK TERRIBLY! HE SUDDENLY REALIZED HOW EMPTY HIS LIFE WAS...

AREN'T YOU HUNGRY, CLARENCE? PEOPLE SAY I'M A PRETTY GOOD COOK!

I NEVER REALIZED THAT I ONLY WANTED TO BE A SUCCESS FOR HER! WITHOUT HER, IT'S ALL MEANINGLESS!



HE FELT LISTLESS UPON HIS RETURN TO NEW YORK! THE GLAMOR OF HIS LIFE HELD NO APPEAL...

WE'LL HAVE TO RECORD IT OVER AGAIN, TERRY! WHAT'S THE MATTER? YOU DON'T HAVE YOUR HEART IN IT!

JUST A LITTLE BLUE, I GUESS!



MONEY NO LONGER MATTERED, AND THE NUMEROUS GIRLS AT HIS FEET LEFT HIM COLD...

I CAN'T GET AMY AND THAT HAPPY HOUSEHOLD OUT OF MY MIND! HOW MUCH HAPPIER I'D HAVE BEEN IF I NEVER LEFT HOME! BUT HOW COULD I HAVE KNOWN?



SOON HIS HEALTH WAS SUFFERING! UNABLE TO SHAKE A STEADY COUGH, HE VISITED A SPECIALIST...

I'M AFRAID YOU'VE GOT A TOUCH OF TUBERCULOSIS! YOU'LL NEED A COMPLETE REST... FOR A LONG, LONG TIME!

YOU MEAN, QUIT PLAYING? WHAT ELSE IS THERE FOR ME?



SO THE LONG YEARS OF PRIVATION HAD TAKEN THEIR TOLL! BUT HE REFUSED TO REST, LIFE ITSELF SEEMED UNIMPORTANT...

YOUR COUGH'S GETTING WORSE! LET ME CANCEL YOUR APPEARANCE!

NO! COUGH! COUGH! I... I'LL BE ALL RIGHT!



AS HE PREPARED FOR HIS PERFORMANCE, HE FELT A SUDDEN, UNEXPECTED DESIRE...

I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT I'VE GOT THE URGE TO SEND ANY A SLACK OF MY RECORDING MANT SEEN TO REMEMBER HER MARRIED ADDRESS! OH WELL, I'LL SEND IT IN CARE OF HER FOLKS!

AFTER SENDING OFF THE PACKAGE, HE HURRIED TO THE TV STATION FOR HIS PROGRAM! HIS STRENGTH HAD RUN OUT...

OH... OH...

WELL, HERE'S PRINTING! GET HIM OFF CAMERA, QUICK!

DOCTORS WERE INSTANTLY SUMMONED...

HE'S BURNING UP! GET AN AMBULANCE FAST-- THIS GUY'S CLOSE TO DEATH!

HE KNEW NOT HOW LONG HE WAS UNCONSCIOUS! WHEN AT LONG LAST HE OPENED HIS EYES, HE FACED A SURPRISING CIRCLE OF FACES...

HE'S COMING AROUND... THE CRISIS IS PAST! HE'LL BE ALL RIGHT NOW!

THANK HEAVENS!

IT WAS ONLY THEN HE REALIZED THAT HE WAS IN A HOSPITAL CHARITY WARD, HAD BEEN DELIRIOUS FOR DAYS...

YOU FAINTED WHEN YOU LEFT MY SHOP THE OTHER DAY, MISTER! I RUSHED YOU HERE!

OH, CLARENCE, CLARENCE... WHY DIDN'T YOU EVER WRITE THE DOCTORS GOT IN TOUCH WITH ME THROUGH YOUR WALLET IDENTIFICATION!

STARK REALIZATION FELL ON THE SICK MAN'S HEAD LIKE A HAMMER BLOW! FOR NOW HE KNEW THAT NOTHING HAD EVER HAPPENED, THAT HE'D NEVER ACHIEVED FAME...

I NEVER STOPPED LOVING YOU, DARLING! AS SOON AS YOU'RE WELL, I'M TAKING YOU HOME!

I... I IMAGINED IT ALL! BUT I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT! IT WAS ALL TOO... REAL!

HERE'S YOUR GOLD PIECE BACK, MISTER... IT'S WORTH A LOT MORE THAN THIS ROTTEN OLD TRUMPET!

TH-THANKS! I... I WON'T BE NEEDING THE HORN... ANY MORE...

WHEN CLARENCE WAS DISCHARGED FROM THE HOSPITAL, AMY TOOK HIM BACK HOME! SHE NOTED THAT HE WAS STRANGELY SILENT...

I CAN'T TELL HER ABOUT MY HALLUCINATION! SHE'D THINK ME MAD! COULD IT ALL HAVE BEEN JUST... DELIRIUM?



THE OLD FAMILIAR TOWN, HOW MUCH BETTER IT MADE HIM FEEL! AS THEY APPROACHED AMY'S HOUSE...

I DON'T DESERVE YOU, HONEY! THANKS FOR WAITING... YOU KNOW, I HAD THE CRAZY IDEA YOU WERE MARRIED!


I THOUGHT ABOUT IT, BUT I COULDN'T FORGET YOU!



CLARENCE WAS ACCEPTED BACK, WITH NO QUESTIONS ASKED! THEY WERE VASTLY SURPRISED WHEN...

BY THE WAY, THIS PACKAGE ARRIVED WHILE YOU WERE IN NEW YORK! FUNNY, IT'S ADDRESSED IN CARE OF US TO MRS. AMY MORGAN!

OH! THIS MUST BE SOMEBODY'S IDEA OF A PRACTICAL JOKE!



CLARENCE TURNED PALE, FOUGHT BACK A SEIZURE OF TREMBLING WHICH THREATENED TO TAKE POSSESSION OF HIM...

A... A PRACTICAL JOKE? I DON'T UNDERSTAND...

WELL... I'VE BEEN SEEING A LOT OF A FELLOW NAMED ARTHUR MORGAN! CAN'T TELL, I MIGHT EVEN HAVE MARRIED HIM SOMEDAY... IF I HADN'T FOUND YOU AGAIN!



OH, A STACK OF RECORDS! TERRY MARLOWE AND HIS PIXIELAND 8! NEVER HEARD OF HIM! WONDER WHO WOULD SEND THIS TO ME?


GOOD GRIEF... IT'S NOT POSSIBLE! NOT POSSIBLE!



AS SHE SET A PLATTER TO SPINNING, CLARENCE'S HEART BEGAN TO POUND WILDLY...

SAY, WHOEVER THIS MARLOWE IS, HE'S REAL GOOD! THAT'S AN AWFULLY SWEET TRUMPET!

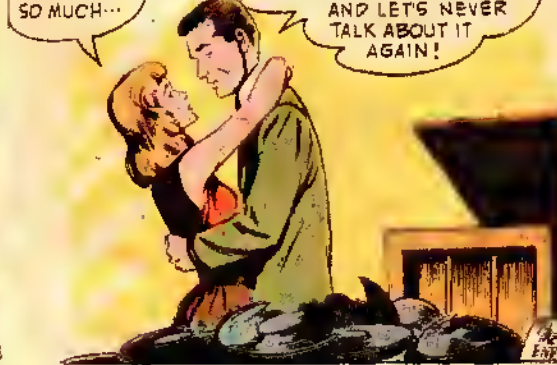
I--- I'VE GOT TO DESTROY THOSE DISKS! WHILE THEY EXIST, I'LL NEVER KNOW PEACE!



QUETLY, GRIMLY, HE SMASHED THEM ALL TO BITS! AMY LOOKED AT HIM WITH CONCERN AND SURPRISE, UNABLE TO STOP HIM...

WHY DID YOU DO THAT, DARLING? YOU WHO LOVE MUSIC SO MUCH...

DON'T ASK ME TO EXPLAIN, BUT IT'S SOMETHING I HAD TO DO! I DON'T EVEN WANT TO HEAR ABOUT TRUMPET PLAYING AGAIN! FROM NOW ON, I'M GOING TO LEAD A NORMAL LIFE... WITH YOU! AND LET'S NEVER TALK ABOUT IT AGAIN!

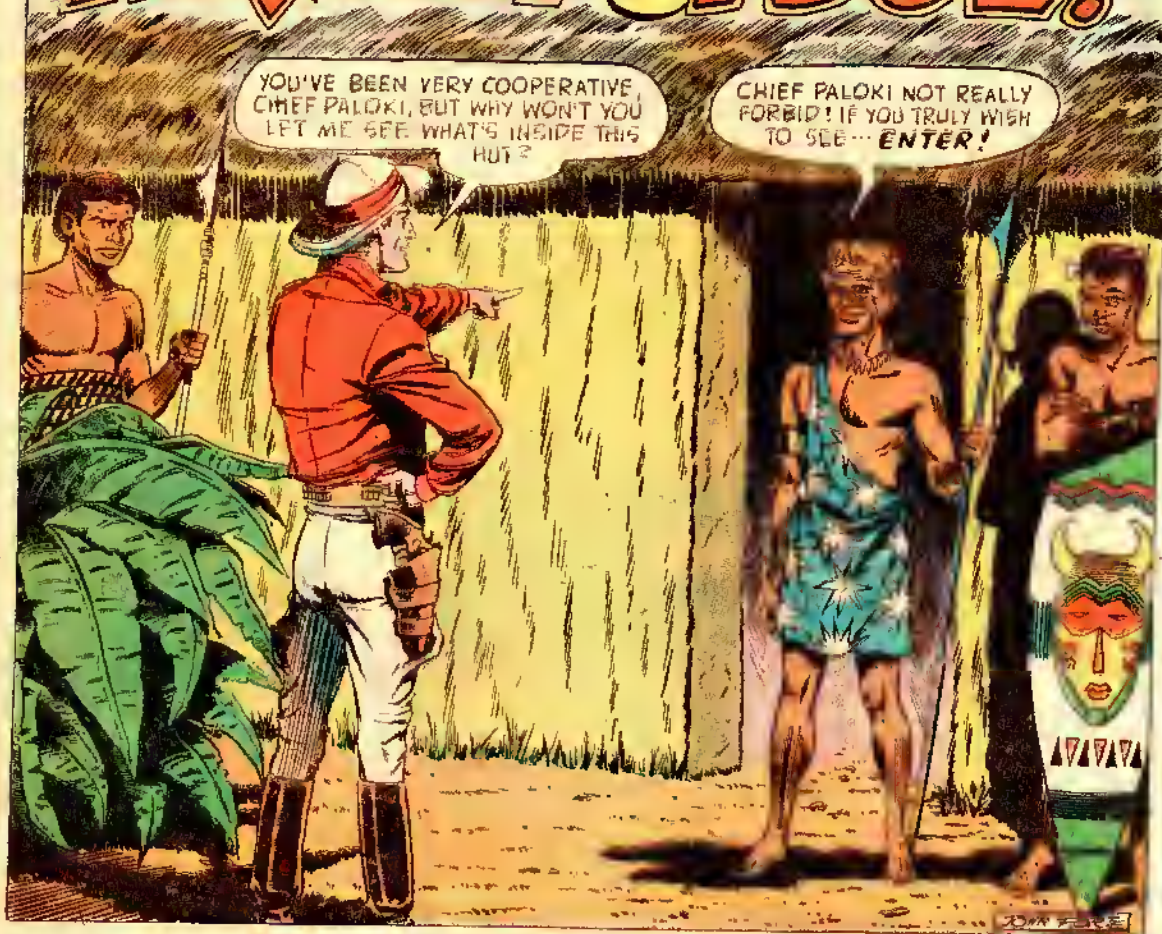


HUGH JENSON WAS ONE FOURTH TRADER AND THREE FOURTHS SCOUNDREL, AND WITH THE ISLANDERS A FRIENDLY LOT, HE SAW NO REASON FOR HIS PLAN TO FAIL! BUT THERE WAS ONE FACTOR HE DIDN'T CONSIDER, AN IMPORTANT ONE, AND THAT WAS THE...

WRATH ^{of the} IDOL!

YOU'VE BEEN VERY COOPERATIVE, CHIEF PALOKI, BUT WHY WON'T YOU LET ME SEE WHAT'S INSIDE THIS HUT?

CHIEF PALOKI NOT REALLY FORBID! IF YOU TRULY WISH TO SEE... ENTER!



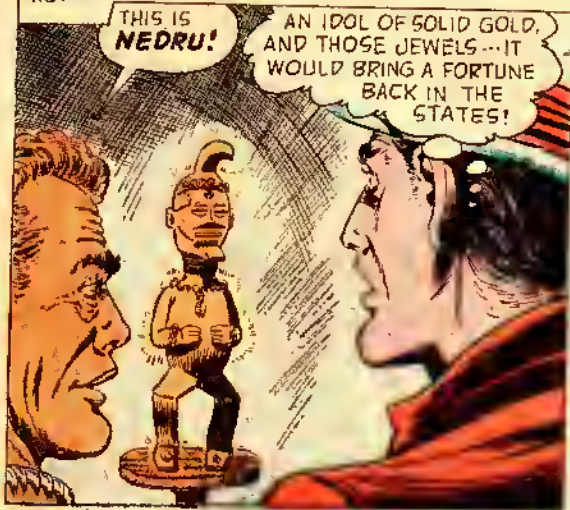
MOMENTS LATER, WHEN JENSON ENTERED THE HUT...

THIS IS NEDRU!

AN IDOL OF SOLID GOLD, AND THOSE JEWELS... IT WOULD BRING A FORTUNE BACK IN THE STATES!

LOOK, CHIEF, WE MAKE TRADE! YOU GIVE ME IDOL, I GIVE CLOTH FOR WOMEN, KNIVES FOR MEN!

NO! NEVER MAKE TRADE FOR NEDRU!

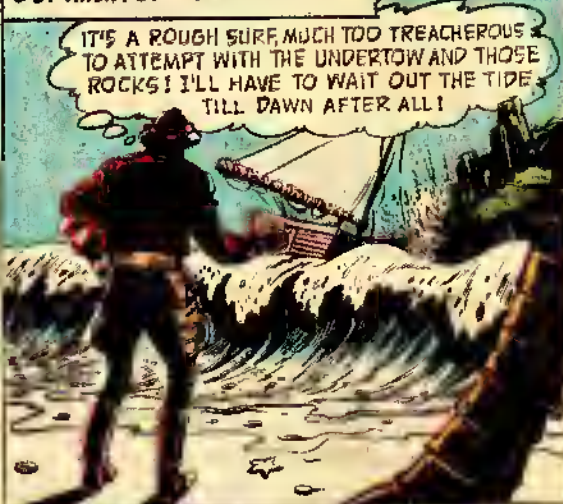




SHORTLY AFTERWARDS, WITH THE PRIZED POSSESSION HELD TIGHTLY, JENSON HEADED FOR THE BEACH AND HIS WAITING SKIFF...



BUT WHEN HE REACHED THE BEACH...



AFTER BURYING THE IDOL BENEATH THE TRUNK OF THE SOLITARY TREE, JENSON TOOK EVERY PRECAUTION...



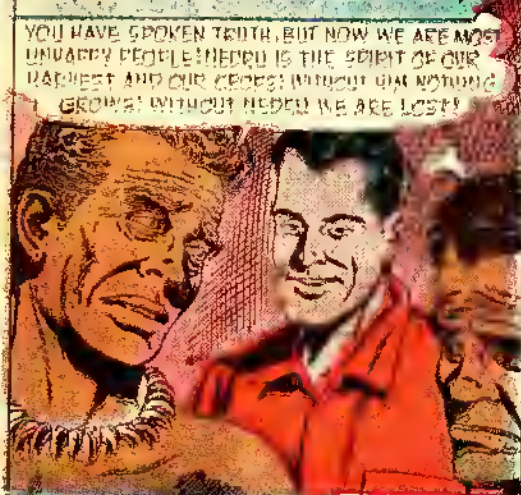
THE HOURS PASSED, AND WITH THE COMING OF DAWN--



NOW THEN, WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS?

NEDRU! HE IS GONE! YOU STEAL!

BUT WHEN THEIR SEARCH PROVED FRUITLESS--



YOU HAVE SPOKEN TRUTH, BUT NOW WE ARE MOST UNHAPPY PEOPLE! NEDRU IS THE SPIRIT OF OUR HARVEST AND OUR CROPS! WITHOUT HIM NOTHING GROWS! WITHOUT NEDRU WE ARE LOST!

AND WHEN THE UNHAPPY ISLANDERS TRUDGED OFF--



IT WORKED LIKE A CHARM! NOW TO DIG UP THE IDOL AND THEN IT'S CLEAR SAILING AHEAD!

ALL THAT REMAINS IS TO--NO! I'M SEEING THINGS IT COULDN'T HAVE HAPPENED! IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!



THERE WAS ONLY ONE TREE THERE LAST NIGHT! NOW THERE ARE THOUSANDS OF THEM! A JUNGLE SPRANG UP OVERNIGHT!



THE DAYS PASSED, BECAME WEEKS, MONTHS, AND DRIVEN BY GREED AND FRENZY, JENSON PURSUED HIS MADDENING COURSE! SLOWLY HIS BODY AND MIND CRACKED UNDER THE STRAIN--



G--GOT TO GO ON! MUST FIND IT! I--IT'S HERE--SOMEWHERE!

LIKE OUT OF A DREAM, HE REMEMBERED THE ISLANDERS' WORDS! NEDRU WAS THE SPIRIT OF THE CROPS AND ALL THE THINGS THAT GREW! NOW HE SAW IT ALL, THE JUNGLE THAT SPRANG UP OVERNIGHT-- NOW HE UNDERSTOOD--



...AND THEY SOBE THOUGHT IT WAS THEY WHO WOULD BE DOOMED! ONLY IT ISN'T SOBE THEM! IT IS ME!

THE END!

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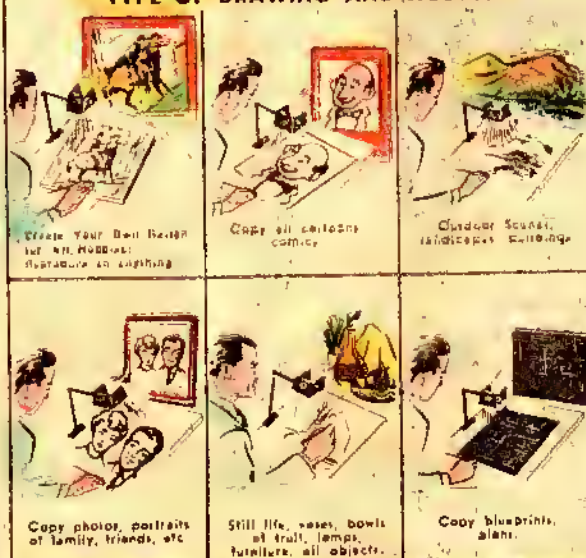
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